

Message Text

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8286

CINCPAC FOR POLAD PASS HABIB AND SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS

SUBJECT: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS

1. PRIOR DEPARTURE FOR HONOLULU, AMBASSADOR SNEIDER HAD LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH JAPANESE AMBASSADOR USHIROKU. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS.

2. U.S. ROLE: WHILE CONVERSATION CENTERED ON ROK/JAPAN RELATIONSHIP, USHIROKU REFERRED THROUGHOUT THE THEME THAT U.S. COULD DO MUCH TO HELP RESTORE THAT RELATIONSHIP TO PRE-AUGUST 15 LEVEL. HE SEVERAL TIMES SPOKE OF DESIRABILITY OF DEVELOPING SOME SORT OF TRILATERAL US/JAPAN/ROK RELATIONSHIP AND SAID HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC AT PRESENT TIME ABOUT ABILITY OF OTHER TWO SIDES TO IMPROVE MATTERS GREATLY WITHOUT SOME ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. USHIROKU WAS HIGHLY COMMENDATORY WITH REGARD TO EFFECT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT ON ROK DOMESTIC SITUATION.

3. CURRENT STATE OF ROK/JAPAN RELATIONS: USHIROKU THOUGHT
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ROK NOW MUCH MORE ANXIOUS THAN GOJ TO RESTORE RELATIONS TO

PRE-AUGUST 15 LEVEL. NEGATIVE FACTORS ON JAPANESE SIDE INCLUDE HESITANCY OF JAPANESE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO RESUME ACTIVITIES HERE BECAUSE OF ANTI-JAPANESE FEELINGS EVIDENCED DURING SEPT-OCT DISPUTE AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TENDENCY OF GOJ TO BOW TO LEFTWING PRESSURES ON KOREA. USHIROKU MENTIONED TWO STEPS WHICH HE THOUGH ROKG MIGHT TAKE TO FACILITATE GREATER JAPANESE COOPERATION: 1) REDUCE SENTENCES OF TWO JAPANESE ARRESTED UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURES AND 2) TAKE SOME ACTION AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS WHO INVADDED JAPANESE EMBASSY DURING LATE SEPTEMBER RIOTS. USHIROKU DID NOT BELIEVE ROKG ACTION WITH RESPECT TO KIM TAE CHUNG WAS NECESSARY SINCE KIM'S PARTICIPATION IN RECENT MEETING OF 71 DISSIDENTS MAKES IT CLEAR THAT KIM NOW MORE FREE ACT POLITICALLY.

4. JAPANESE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: USHIROKU WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT JAPAN WOULD PROVIDE SHORT-TERM CREDITS, WHICH HE ACKNOWLEDGED ROK BADLY NEEDS, IN VIEW JAPAN'S OWN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE SAID JAPAN WOULD, HOWEVER, BE SENDING MISSION TO ROK DEC 16 TO STUDY VARIETY OF ROKG LOAN REQUESTS AMOUNTING TO ABOUT TWO HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS, SOME OF WHICH USHIROKU ANTICIPATED JAPANESE WOULD EXTEND FAIRLY SOON. JAPANESE INTEND TO HANDLE LOAN PROGRAM AS STRAIGHT BUREAUCRATIC MATTER SEPARATE FROM LONG PENDING MINISTERIAL MEETING.

5. EFFECTS OF LEFTWING PRESSURES ON GOJ: USHIROKU CONFIRMED JAPANESE EXIM BANK CONSIDERING TWO SMALL LOANS TO DPRK FOR TEXTILE AND NUTS AND BOLTS FACTORIES. ROKG HAD PROTESTED THESE LOANS AND HAD SUBSEQUENTLY REQUESTED THAT LOANS BE DELAYED. USHIROKU SAID GOJ HAD EXPLAINED NECESSITY TO PROCEED ON GROUNDS THAT LOANS WERE MEANS OF SATISFYING LEFTWING PRESSURES ON GOJ TO TAKE SOME STEPS TO RECTIFY GREAT IMBALANCE IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES BETWEEN TWO KOREAS. USHIROKU ALSO ALLUDED TO HESITANCY OF GOJ IN SUBMITTING ROKG-GOJ AGREEMENT ON OFF-SHORE OIL EXPLORATION TO DIET, WHICH HE EXPLAINED IN TERMS GOJ CONCERN OVER LEFTWING ATTACKS. HE THOUGHT RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM WOULD DEPEND ON DEGREE TO WHICH NEW JAPANESE CABINET WILLING TO STAND UP UNDER LEFTWING PRESSURES.

5. COMMENT: USHIROKU'S FEELING THAT ROKG IS MORE ANXIOUS THAN GOJ TO RETURN TO BUSINESS AS USUAL IS PROBABLY CORRECT. NEVERTHELESS
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IT STILL UNCLEAR WHETHER ROKG WILL TAKE STEPS NECESSARY TO INDUCE GOJ

TO DO SO. FOR EXAMPLE, RUMORS ABOUND IN SEOUL ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT MANY STUDENTS AND OTHERS ARRESTED UNDER EMERGENCY DECREES MAY BE GRANTED AMNESTY BEFORE NEW YEAR OR AFTER SUPREME COURT HAS COMPLETED REVIEW (ANTICIPATED MID-JANUARY) OF ALL PENDING CASES. RUMORS SELDOM, HOWEVER, MENTION POSSIBILITY THAT TWO IMPRISONED JAPANESE WILL BE INCLUDED.

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